

**JOINT DECLARATION ON
COOPERATION**

BETWEEN

**ICELAND,
THE PRINCIPALITY OF
LIECHTENSTEIN,
THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

AND

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF
MYANMAR**

JOINT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION

Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as “the EFTA States”), on the one hand,

and

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter referred to as “Myanmar”), on the other:

DESIRING to enhance the bonds of friendship and economic cooperation between the EFTA States and Myanmar;

ADHERING to the principles of human rights, democracy and the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders;

BUILDING on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as the “WTO”);

EXPRESSING their intention to establish a framework supporting the expansion and diversification of trade and investment flows between the EFTA States and Myanmar;

DESIRING to pursue the objective of sustainable development and recognising the importance of coherence and mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and labour policies in this respect

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility for sustainable development, and affirming their aim to encourage enterprises to observe internationally recognised guidelines and principles in this respect, such as OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance and the UN Global Compact

HEREBY DECLARE the following:

I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Myanmar will seek to:
 - (a) enhance economic relations between them, in particular concerning trade in goods and services as well as investment;
 - (b) strengthen their cooperation with a view to promoting further liberalisation of trade and investment among them;
 - (c) facilitate the increased involvement of the private sector, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises, in trade and commercial cooperation between them;
 - (d) ensure that labour and environmental standards are reflected in their trade relationship; and
 - (e) examine, in light of any relevant factors, the possibility of further developing their economic and trade relationship.

II TRADE

2. The EFTA States and Myanmar shall seek concrete ways and means of expanding their trade relations, taking into account their international obligations, in particular the provisions of the WTO agreements, *inter alia*, by:
 - (a) removing technical barriers to trade;
 - (b) developing customs cooperation;
 - (c) exchanging information on trade in goods and services; and
 - (d) examining available trade policy instruments with a view to realising the objectives of this Declaration.
3. The EFTA States and Myanmar shall seek to broaden cooperation in areas of particular importance to expanding their trade relations, *inter alia*, by exchanging views and encouraging cooperation on:
 - (a) free and undistorted competition;
 - (b) their public procurement markets;
 - (c) intellectual property rights;
 - (d) trade and sustainable development; and
 - (e) other trade-related issues and policies.

4. The EFTA States and Myanmar shall, when conditions permit, jointly examine actions to be taken in view of establishing a free trade area between them, taking into account the provisions of the WTO agreements.

III PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT

5. The EFTA States and Myanmar shall seek to promote private sector trade and investment cooperation projects, *inter alia*, by creating favourable conditions conducive to capital flows and investment in economic sectors of mutual interest.

6. The EFTA States and Myanmar shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organisations concerned with foreign trade and investment, with the aim of developing sustainable economic activities between the EFTA States and Myanmar.

IV JOINT COMMITTEE

7. The EFTA States and Myanmar hereby establish a Joint Committee.

8. The Joint Committee shall be composed of representatives of the EFTA States and Myanmar.

9. The Joint Committee shall review the cooperation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and discuss any other issue of mutual interest. It may formulate recommendations on any relevant subject by consensus.

10. The Joint Committee shall meet as and when necessary upon agreement between the EFTA States and Myanmar.

11. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be provided jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar.

DONE at Trondheim, this 24th day of June 2013, in two original copies in the English language.

For Iceland

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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For the Principality of Liechtenstein

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For the Kingdom of Norway

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For the Swiss Confederation

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